(b) if so, whether it would be financially more prudent if public-private partnership is massively resorted to in financing the infrastructure projects and there is no dilution in the "Reserves"; and

(c) what are the projections in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for public-private partnership for core sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, it is proposed to use a small portion of the country's forex reserves for financing infrastructure projects as availability of long term finance is a constraint. The initiative to utilize a small portion of forex reserves through an overseas SPV of IIFCL aims to partially address this issue. Long term finance can also be availed by PPP projects from the IIFCL ocerseas SPVs. As the amount being utilized for infrastructure financing is a very small percentage of forex reserves, there is no fear of dilution in the reserves.

(c) No separate projections of public private partnership for core sector has been made for Eleventh Five Year Plan. The estimates for private sector investment including public private partnerships for the Eleventh Five Year Plan are Rs. 601,959 crore.

Non-payment of import/customs duties

30. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign flagged motor yachts and sailing boats are being owned and/or operated in Indian seas including in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which do not need to pay import/customs duty whilst Indian flagged vessels pay customs duty of 30 plus per cent; and

(b) if so, whether this constitute a loophole that is being exploited to avoid customs duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A foreign flagged vessel whether or not owned and/or operated by an Indian, when calling on any Indian port is treated as conveyance and is not liable for payment of import duty. A motor yacht or sailing boat arriving into India for the first time, for registration as Indian flagged vessel, is considered as imported goods and is charged to applicable customs duty. On subsequent calls at any Indian Port, the Indian flagged vessel is treated at par with the foreign flagged vessel and is not charged to customs duty.

Suicide by debt-ridden farmers

31. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of farmers committed suicide because of their inability to pay back their loans from Commercial Banks during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the number and the details of such suicides;

(c) whether Government would like to take new initiative to help the farmers in distress;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?